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STATE LEGISLATURE, MADRAS

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, the 12th February 1959.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Superannuated Government Officials

* 26 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of superannuated Government officials reappointed in each department during 1957–58; and

(*b*) the principles governing such reappointment?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : (*a*) & (*b*) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Is it not the general rule that such reappointments are restricted only to technical posts such as Medical Officers, Engineers, etc.?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes, Sir, that is true. In fact, we have a few principles governing reappointment of superannuated Government officers. Firstly, there should be a dearth of qualified and suitable hands in the department for appointment to the post. Secondly, the retiring officer's work and conduct should have been satisfactory enough to deserve re-employment. Thirdly, they should be physically and mentally fit. Then, they must have special qualifications, training or experience which can be of particular use to the department.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : What is the maximum age-limit up to which the Government officials may be reappointed even after 55 whether it is 58 or 60 beyond which they will not be continued?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : No particular age-limit has been fixed. But, generally, this reappointment is made for a year at a time and it is reviewed periodically.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Government enforce the rule that under any circumstances, such reappointment will not be made beyond the age of 60 in the interests of promotion and recruitment of younger men?

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[a] Printed as Appendix on pages 302–303 infra.

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THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That may perhaps lead to depriving ourselves of the services of those who are available.

Sri T. Purushotham and Sri Mohamed Raza Khan rose.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Raza Khan, the hon. Member Sri Purushotham put the original question.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Yes, Sir. But, he should have some rest. He should have become tired by putting supplementaries continuously.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : With reference to the answer of the Hon. Minister to clause (*b*), will the Government consider the question of laying down a general principle that such a reappointment will not be ordered if it would adversely affect qualified hands and probationers awaiting promotion?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : This is begging the question. If really qualified hands are available, we will not certainly appoint superannuated officers.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : What about the persons who are immediately subordinate to such officers?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, if the Government thought that the person immediately subordinate to the officer reappointed was good enough to hold the position, certainly, the other officer would not be given reappointment. But, it is only because there is dearth of qualified expert hands, that we have to reappoint these people.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Government agree with me that every person who retires feels that he is indispensable and works his way through somehow or other to see that he is reappointed and that sometimes some of them are fortunate to get back the posts which they held at the time of retirement?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : If the person considers himself indispensable, it is pardonable conceit. It is for the Government to feel that his services are necessary and only when the Government feel that the services of that officer are necessary, he is reappointed after superannuation.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : From the paper placed on the table of the House, we find that the Industries Department is leading, in having reappointed as many as 43 superannuated officers. May I know the reasons for appointing such a large number of them? Were they technical posts?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is all on the technical side. The great expansion of the Industries Department probably explains the reappointment of a large number of superannuated officers.

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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Arising out of the answers of the Hon. Minister, may I know whether such reappointments will not add to the unemployment problem and, if so, will the Government consider the revision of their re-employment policy and the principles and rules governing the same in that light?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Considering the large volume of unemployment, the reappointment of a small number of very highly qualified and skilled officers is not going to make any very great difference. I hope the hon. Member will appreciate that this is necessitated by the dearth of qualified technical personnel.

DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : Is there any proposal to consider the question of re-employment of superannuated officers alongside the other question, viz., raising the age-limit of retirement to 60?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : There is no such proposal before the Government.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : My point is this. Is such medical examination of these superannuated people before they are re-employed?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : My Colleague reminds me that there is medical examination. We trust doctors.

DR. A. SREENNIVASAN : My point is this. Is such medical examination conditional before such officers are reappointed? That is what I want to know.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes, it is so.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : May I take it, Sir, that they are given the salary last drawn by them?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is not treated as extension of service, but is treated as re-employment and they are generally appointed on the pay last drawn.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : Is it not a reflection on these officers who have failed to take steps to train the officers under them?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is not a reflection. There is a growing demand for technical personnel and we are not able to get all of them. We are not able to get new hands for all these posts. Therefore, it is necessary to re-employ some of them.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it not a fact that a good number of officers belonging to the Administrative Services have also been reappointed? It is not a technical qualification.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Well, their services were specially required for certain particular departments.